

# **NEWS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS**

## **Tom Daschle and Nancy Pelosi**

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## **Pelosi and Daschle Release Excerpts From Official State of the Union Response**

*Washington, D.C. -- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle will deliver the official Democratic response to the President's State of the Union address tonight. Below are excerpts from the Leaders' remarks:*

### **DEMOCRATS ARE FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN PRIORITIES**

“[T]he American people have shown again and again that they are equal to any test. Now their example summons all of us in government, Republicans and Democrats, to a higher standard... Democrats are committed to strengthening the state of our union, to reach for a safer, more prosperous America. Together, let us make America work for all Americans - let us restore our rightful role of leadership in the world, working with others for the ‘freedom of man’.”

-- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

“Only when every American who wants to work can... when every child goes to a good school, and the opportunity to go further... only when health care is available and affordable for every family... when a lifetime of work guarantees a retirement with dignity... And when America is secure at home, and our strength abroad is respected and not resented. Only then will we have a union as strong as the American people.”

-- Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle

### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

“Never before have we been more powerful militarily. But even the most powerful nation in history must bring other nations to our side to meet common dangers. The President’s policies do not reflect that. He has pursued a go-it-alone foreign policy that leaves us isolated abroad and that steals the resources we need for education and health care here at home... American taxpayers are bearing almost all the cost - a colossal \$120 billion and rising. More importantly, American troops are enduring almost all the casualties.”

-- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

“Instead of billions of dollars in no-bid contracts for politically connected firms such as Halliburton and an insistence on American dominance in Iraq, let us share the burden and responsibility with others so that together we can end the sense of American occupation and bring our troops home safely when their mission is completed.”

-- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

“We must remain focused on the greatest threat to the security of the United States - the clear and present danger of terrorism. We know what we must do to protect America, but this Administration is failing to meet the challenge. Democrats have a better way to ensure our homeland security.”

-- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

## **VETERANS**

“As a nation, we must do better to keep faith with our armed forces, their families, and our veterans. Our men and women in uniform show their valor every day. On the battlefield, our troops pledge to leave no soldier behind. Here at home, we must leave no veteran behind. We must ensure their health care, their pensions, and their survivors’ benefits.”

-- House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

## **ECONOMY**

“America can't afford to keep rewarding the accumulation of wealth over the dignity of work. Instead of borrowing even more money to give more tax breaks to companies so that they can export even more jobs, we propose tax cuts and

policies that will strengthen our manufacturing sector and create good jobs at good wages here at home.”

-- Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle

## **HEALTH CARE**

“Today in America, 43.6 million people - almost all of them from working families - have no health insurance. That’s over 3.8 million more uninsured Americans than when President Bush took office. Those Americans lucky enough to have health insurance have seen their premiums go up each of the last three years. The increase in premiums that middle-income families have seen over the past three years is larger than the four-year tax cut they’ve been promised. This is an invisible tax increase on middle class families.”

-- Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle

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